GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1398
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2006
ILLEGAL IMPORT OF SPICES.
Sidhu Shri Navjot Singh

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government has receivedcomplaints regarding illegal import of certain spices from Sri Lanka;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) action taken in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S.PALANIMANICKAM)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. Complaints have been received regarding improper importation of Indonesian Cloves disguised as Sri Lanka origin in order to claim duty free concessionunder the Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement.Undervaluation of cloves as also misuse of ISFTA for import of areca nuts & pepper at concessional rate of duty has also been alleged.

(c) The details of cases booked in this regard are as follows:

Year	No.of cases	Value of goods (Rs. in Lakhs)	Duty involved seized
2005-06	1	65.00	120
2006-07	NIL	NIL	NIL

All Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have been sensitized to remain alert and thwart the attempts to illegally import spices from Sri Lanka.